

Message Text

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ACTION DPW-01

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 EA-11 AID-20 DRC-01 NEA-10 EUR-25

SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SPC-03 SS-20 ACDA-19 /164 W
----- 024377

O R 041130Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9586

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

USMISSION GENEVA

JCRC NKP RTAFB THAI

CINCPAC

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, VS, VN

SUBJ: STATUS OF FPJMT TALKS

REF: A. STATE 234675; B. USDEL GG

ZE280830Z JUL 73

1. FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY OF FPJMT NEGOTS SINCE REF B WAS SENT:

2. SUMMARY: THE PERIOD FROM EARLY AUGUST THROUGH NOVEMBER
WITNESSED A GROWING INFLEXIBILITY ON THE PART OF THE COMMUNIST
DELS REGARDING CEMETERY AND MEMORIAL ISSUE. RVN HAS TAKEN
FIRM POSITION THAT COMMUNIST DEMANDS GO BEYOND SCOPE OF ARTICLE
8(B), BUT COMMUNISTS REFUSED ANY COMPROMISE. WHEN A COMPLETE
DEADLOCK ON CEMETERY AND MEMORIAL ISSUE WAS REACHED IN SEPTEMBER,
COMMUNIST DELS RESORTED TO POLEMICS AND RHETORIC TO AVOID
DISCUSSIONS OF FPJMT BUSINESS. THIS TACTIC GRADUALLY EVOLVED
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INTO DISRUPTING THE TALKS, ON A TEMPORARY BASIS, BY

WALKOUTS AND BOYCOTTS, USING AS A REASON, ALLEGED RVN/US VIOLATIONS OF THE CEASE-FIRE, PARTICULARLY RVN DEFENSIVE MEASURES IN THE FACT OF INCREASING COMMUNIST MILITARY ATTACKS. THROUGH THE TACTIC OF LINKING QUESTIONS AT ISSUE BETWEEN THE VIETNAMESE PARTIES WITH QUESTIONS INVOLVING THE U.S. THE DRV/PRG HAVE EFFECTIVELY BLOCKED ANY PROGRESS ON U.S. MIAS AND DICS.

3. NUMEROUS US/RVN INITIATIVES WERE TAKEN DURING THIS PERIOD TO DEMONSTRATE SERIOUS DESIRE TO IMPLEMENT ARTICLE 8(B) AND ASSIST DRV/PRG EFFORTS TO ACCOUNT FOR THOSE MISSING IN ACTION. THOSE INITIATIVES INCLUDED PROVIDING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION TO DRV/PRG CONCERNING SPECIFIC MIA PERSONNEL, RVN INVITATION FOR ALL DELS TO VISIT TWO PRG GRAVES IN RVN TERRITORY, ATTEMPTS BY US TO SECURE AUTHORITY FOR CRASH SITE INVESTIGATIONS IN PRG AND DRV TERRITORY, REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION ABOUT DEAD OR MISSING TCN, AND RVN OFFER TO EXCHANGE INFORMATION ON VIETNAMESE COMMUNIST DEAD WHO ARE BURIED IN RVN TERRITORY PROVIDED THE OTHER SIDE RECIPROCATES. THESE US/RVN ENDEAVORS WERE UNSUCCESSFUL. DRV/PRG CONTINUED TO INSIST THAT NO SPECIFIC ACTIONS COULD TAKE PLACE WITHIN FPJMT FRAMEWORK, UNTIL THERE IS COMPLETE AGREEMENT ON ALL - QUOTE MODALITIES, GENERAL PRINCIPLES, AND WORKING PRO- CEDURES - UNQUOTE - IN THE DRAFT MINUTE OF AGREEMENT ON IMPLEMENTATION

OF ARTICLE 8(B) OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT. PRESENTLY, THEY ALSO DEMAND AS A PREREQUISITE FOR FPJMT ACTION, THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ALL ARTICLES OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT AND TOTAL CESSATION OF U.S. ASSISTANCE TO THE GVN. AS A RESULT OF THESE TACTICS THE TALKS ARE NOW STALLED. END SUMMARY. MONTHLY DEVELOPMENTS FOLLOW:

4. AUGUST:

(1) NEGOTS DURING MOST OF AUGUST WERE CONDUCTED IN A FORMAL, COURTEOUS AND BUSINESSLIKE MANNER, AND CENTERED ON POINT 2C (CONSTRUCTION OF GRAVES, CEMETERIES AND MEMORIALS) OF THE DRAFT MINUTE OF AGREEMENT.

(2) IN AN ATTEMPT TO RATIONALIZE THEIR POSITION DRV/PRG MAINTAINED THAT PARIS AGREEMENT AND PROTOCOLS COULD NOT ADDRESS ALL ISSUES IMPORTANT TO ALL PARTIES, AND THEREFORE, THIS IMPLIED TASK MUST FALL UPON FPJMT. FROM THIS POINT THEY ARGUED THAT CONSTRUCTION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF GRAVES, CEMETERIES AND MEMORIALS IS ONLY A BETTER WAY TO TAKE CARE OF GRAVES. THEY ADDED THAT FPJMT MUST CONSIDER BOTH THE DEAD THAT WILL BE REPATRIATED AND THE DEAD WHO CANNOT BE LOCATED OR IDENTIFIED OR WHOSE FAMILIES DO NOT DESIRE REPATRIATION. OTHER ARGUMENTS CITED THE CUSTOMS AND ASPIRATIONS OF THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE.

(3) RVN/US POSITION WAS THAT UNDER THE AGREEMENT AND PROTOCOLS THE FPJMT CHARTER ONLY ALLOWED A CONSIDERATION OF THE TASKS

SPECIFIED IN ARTICLE 8(B), AND THAT CONSTRUCTION OF GRAVES, CEMETERIES AND MEMORIALS IS NOT SO SPECIFIED. U.S. AND RVN HELD THAT THIS MATTER IS WITHIN PURVIEW OF ONLY THE TWO SOUTH VIETNAMESE PARTIES. U.S. ATTEMPTED UNSUCCESSFULLY TO PROVIDE CATALYST FOR MEANINGFUL COMPROMISE ON THIS ISSUE AND LATER IN THE MONTH ATTEMPTED, ALSO UNSUCCESSFULLY, TO HAVE DEL DEPUTIES STUDY ISSUE. ARGUMENTS ON EACH SIDE BECAME REPETITIVE AND PRG/DRV DELS INTERJECTED MATTERS OF A POLITICAL OR MILITARY NATURE, NOT RELATED TO FPJMT WORK.

5. SEPTEMBER:

(1) THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER FEATURED COMMUNIST TACTIC OF AVOIDING DISCUSSION OF SUBSTANTIVE ASPECTS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 8(B), BY FOCUSING ON CHARGES OF ALLEGED US "VIOLATIONS" OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT. AS INDICATOR OF THE LACK OF PROGRESS, THE COMMUNIST AND RVN DELS PROPOSED, AND US AGREED, THAT LENGTH OF PLENARY SESSIONS BE REDUCED FROM FOUR TO THREE HOURS. US AND RVN DELS SOUGHT UNSUCCESSFULLY TO PERSUADE THE OTHER SIDE TO AGREE TO CARRY OUT "CONCRETE ACTIONS" SUCH AS PROVIDE INFORMATION ON US AND RVN MIA.

(2) DRV/PRG ALSO RESORTED TO OTHER STALLING TACTICS. THEY REPEATEDLY LINKED ACCOMPLISHMENT OF US FPJMT GOALS TO TOTALITY OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT. THEY EMPHASIZED SUCH EXTRANEIOUS SUBJECTS AS RVN RELEASE OF CIVILIAN DETAINEES, ACHIEVEMENT OF A COMPLETE CEASE-FIRE IN SVN, AND ESTABLISHMENT OF AREAS OF CONTROL IN SVN AS PRINCIPAL CONDITIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 8(B).

(3) DRV IN PARTICULAR, EXHIBITED EXTREME SENSITIVITY TO USDEL PRESS STATEMENTS WHICH FACTUALLY REPORTED US INITIATIVES AND LACK OF COMMUNIST RESPONSE. DRV COUNTERED WITH REPEATED PROPAGANDA CHARGES THAT US VIOLATED DRV SEA AND AIRSPACE, FAILED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO COMPLETE MINE-SWEEPING OPERATIONS, "ILLEGALLY" INTRODUCED WEAPONS INTO SVN, MAINTAINED FORCES IN SVN, AND FAILED TO ASSIST IN HEALING THE WOUNDS OF WAR AND AIDING IN RECONSTRUCTIONM

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6. OCTOBER:

(1) THE MONTH OF OCTOBER WITNESSED CONTINUED COMMUNIST STALLING TACTICS COMBINED WITH INTENSIFIED PROPAGANDA CHARGES, NOW COUPLED WITH THREATS OF OVERT MILITARY ACTION. US AND RVN DELS CONTINUED TO PRESS FOR INFORMATION ON THEIR MIA AND DIC AND IN ADDITION THE US REPEATEDLY SOUGHT INFO ON OTHER THIRD COUNTRY MIA AND DIC WITH NO SUCCESS.

(2) PRG PROPAGANDA BECAME MORE VOCAL AND SPECIFICALLY PROTESTED CHARGES BY US/RVN GOVTS OF "ILLEGAL" RESUPPLY OF WEAPONS, CONSTRUCTION OF AIRFIELDS, AND MOVEMENT OF TROOPS. PRG PROTESTED EARLIER US BOMBING AND SPRAYING OF TOXIC CHEMICALS, RVN BOMBINGS IN PRG TERRITORY, "LAND GRABBING" OPERATIONS, AND ACCUSED RVN OF "CONSPIRING" WITH THE US TO ENLARGE THE CONFLICT. IN PROTEST AGAINST ALLEGED CEASE-FIRE VIOLATIONS, PRG WALKED OUT OF TWO MEETINGS WHILE DRV APPLAUDED.

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(3) DRV/PRG, FOR THE FIRST TIME, CALLED UPON THE US TO ACCOUNT FOR THOSE KILLED, CAPTURED OR DETAINED BY US OR ALLIED MILITARY FORCES. THIS CULMINATED IN FORMAL REQUESTS BY PRG FOR INFORMATION ABOUT SPECIFIC MIA AND DIC PERSONNEL. COORDINATING WITH RVNDEL, USDEL RESPONDED THAT RESPONSIBILITY FOR MATTER RESTED WITH

RVN AND THAT REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO THE RVNDEL.

(4) TOWARDS END OF MONTH, DRV/PRG ADOPTED AN APPARENTLY MORE CONCILIATORY ATTITUDE WHILE STILL AVOIDING MEANINGFUL DISCUSSION. THEY EXPRESSED DESIRE TO DISCUSS WHAT THEY TERMED A COMMON UNDERSTANDING OF MUTUAL ASSISTANCE TO BE RENDERED BY THE FOUR PARTIES IN IMPLEMENTING THE PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE 8(B). IN FACT THIS TURNED OUT TO BE AN ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN RVN/US ACCESSION TO DRV/PRG VIEWS THAT ARTICLE 8(B) WAS INEXTRICABLY LINKED WITH ALL PROVISIONS OF PARIS AGREEMENT AND EVEN WITH A CONDITION NOT IN THE AGREEMENT -- TOTAL US DISENGAGEMENT FROM SOUTH VIET-NAM.

7. NOVEMBER:

(1) SESSIONS IN NOVEMBER WERE MARKED BY DRV/PRG BOYCOTTS AND WALK-OUTS PROTESTING ACTIONS TAKEN BY RVN IN RESPONSE TO COMMUNIST ESCALATION OF FIGHTING, INCLUDING SUSPENSION OF LIAISON FLIGHTS TO LOC NINH.

(2) THE NOVEMBER SESSIONS REVEALED MORE AGGRESSIVE DRV/PRG POLEMICS AND PROPAGANDA THAN WAS THE CASE IN THE LATTER HALF OF OCTOBER. THE COMMUNISTS REDOUBLED THEIR CHARGES OF RVN/US VIOLATIONS OF NUMEROUS PROVISIONS OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT AND ACCUSED RVN/US OF ATTEMPTING TO "RE-IGNITE" THE WAR IN VIET-NAM. PRG AGAIN THREATENED MILITARY ACTION TO "PUNISH" RVN/US "AGGRESSION".

8. PROGNOSIS:

ASSUMING NO MAJOR CHANGE IN THE CEASE-FIRE SITUATION, WE ANTICIPATE THAT REFUSAL ON PART OF DRV/PRG TO DISCUSS SUBSTANTIVE FPJMT ISSUES WILL CONTINUE. WE EXPECT THE COMMUNISTS TO KEEP UP THEIR FILIBUSTER UNTIL THEY BECOME CONVINCED THAT THE GVN AND US WILL NOT SUBMIT TO THEIR ATTEMPTS TO USE THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MIAS AND DICS FOR BLACKMAIL. WE CANNOT PREDICT WHEN THIS WILL BE. US TACTICS WILL CONTINUE TO CONCENTRATE ON BRINGING THE PLENARY SESSIONS BACK TO SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS OF FPJMT TASKS. WE WILL ALSO CONTINUE ISSUING PRESS RELEASES AS APPROPRIATE TO PUBLICIZE US/RVN INITIATIVES AND THE OBSTRUCTIVE ACTIONS OF THE COMMUNIST SIDE. IN ALL FPJMT MATTERS WE WILL OF COURSE MAINTAIN OUR CLOSE COOPERATION WITH THE GVN.

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